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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named  
Inventor : Thomas W. Bakker et al.  
Appln. No. : 09/889,726  
Filed : July 18, 2001  
Title : PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD  
Docket No. : S866.312-0006

Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner:  
Giovanna Collins

#14B  
E. Collins  
4/20/05

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DEC 05 2003

**GROUP 3600**

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL**

Express Mail No.: EV 302261435 US

Sir:

**INTRODUCTION**

This is in response to the Office Action faxed on August 8, 2003. Because Applicants' Petition filed September 18, 2003 has not been acted on, Applicant believes no Extension of Time is necessary. Please amend the above-identified application as follows: